

1.The Ugly Tree

Long, long ago, in a dense forest there were thousands of tall and beautiful trees. They were happy, but proud of themselves. Among them was also an ugly tree whose branches were badly twisted. Its roots had uneven curves. All the trees made fun of that ugly tree.

“How are you, hunchback?” the other trees always shouted and their laughter made the ugly tree feel sad. But, he never raised a voice against them. The ugly tree thought,

“I wish I were as beautiful as the other trees. Why did I grow this way? I cannot provide shade to the travelers, and birds cannot make their nests on me. Nobody needs me.”

One day, a woodcutter came to the forest. He took a look at the trees and said,

“These trees are lovely. I must cut them.” As soon as he picked up his ax the trees became frightened.

‘Chop, Chop, Chop’ went the woodcutter’s ax and one by one

the trees started to fall.

“None of us is going to be spared,” screamed one of the beautiful trees. Soon that tree was too brought to ground by the woodcutter’s ax.

By now, the woodcutter had come near to the ugly tree. He had just raised his ax when suddenly he noticed how crooked the ugly tree was.

“Hmm! This crooked tree seems to be useless for me. I cannot make long straight logs of this ugly tree,” he thought. And he moved towards another beautiful tree. The ugly tree heaved a huge sigh of relief. He realized that he was saved by being different.

From that day the ugly tree never complained. He was happy with his crooked branches. He never forgot how he was spared from the woodcutter’s ax, only because he was crooked and ugly.

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